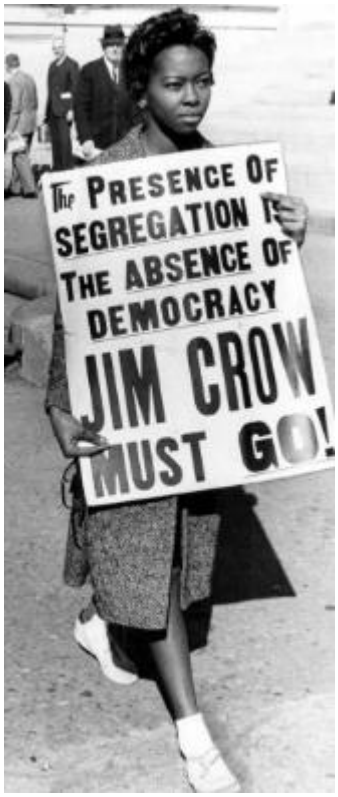
Protest Movements

(i) **Racial Problems and Civil Rights in the USA (1950s-1970s)**



Racial Discrimination:

- **African Americans faced severe racial segregation, disenfranchisement, and discrimination, especially in the Southern states.**
- **Jim Crow laws enforced segregation in schools, public transport, and public spaces.**

Change in the Government's Attitude:

- **Post-World War II, there was growing awareness of racial inequality, partly due to the contributions of African Americans during the war.**
- **The Brown v. Board of Education**
  The case began in 1951 when the public school system in Topeka, Kansas, refused to enroll the daughter of local black resident Oliver Brown at the school closest to their home, instead requiring her to ride a bus to a segregated black school farther away. (1954) Supreme Court ruling declared that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

Associated Press Leased Wires

The Bee.

FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS CALL 4500

SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENDED BY COURT

Ruled Unconstitutional By Supreme Court; Date To End Practice Not Set

Rules Separate Facilities Are Unequal

Danville School Board Will Meet At Once To Study Court Decision

Officials Give Views On Matter; Call For Calm Study On All Sides

Firm Entered, Haul Is Made; Boy Wounded

Paroled Slayer Captured After Bizarre Deaths

Held For Four Brutal Killings

McCarthy-Army Hearings' Future Thrown In Doubt

Presidential Order Shutting Off Inquiry Denounced By Sen. McCarthy

- **The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were landmark legislations that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.**

Campaign for Equal Rights:

- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK): A prominent leader in the Civil Rights Movement, advocating for non-violent protests and civil disobedience.**
  - **Key events include the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-56), sparked by Rosa Parks' arrest, and the March on Washington (1963), where MLK delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.**
  - **The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a 13-month protest against racial segregation on public buses in Montgomery, Alabama. It began on December 5, 1955 and was a key event in the civil rights movement.**
  - **How it started**
  - **Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger**
  - **The Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) organized the boycott. Martin Luther King, Jr. led the boycott**
  - **What happened**
  - **African Americans stopped taking the bus and carpooled or walked instead.**
  - **The boycott lasted for more than a year. A federal district court ruled that segregated seating on buses was unconstitutional.**
  - **The Supreme Court upheld the ruling in November 1956.**

- King's philosophy of peaceful resistance was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent tactics.

- **Key Events & Achievements:**
  - 1964 Civil Rights Act: Outlawed discrimination in public places, employment, and education.
  - 1965 Voting Rights Act: Eliminated barriers to voting for African Americans, such as literacy tests and poll taxes.

(ii) Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa (1948-1994)

Main Features of Apartheid:

- **Apartheid:** A system of institutionalized racial segregation and discrimination enforced by the National Party government in South Africa from 1948.
- It classified people into racial groups (White, Black, Coloured, and Indian) and severely restricted the rights of the non-white population.
  - Non-whites were forced to live in segregated areas (townships), had limited access to education, healthcare, and jobs, and were denied political rights.
  - Mixed marriages and relationships were also prohibited.

Opposition to Apartheid:

- **Dr. Nelson Mandela:** A key figure in the anti-apartheid movement, he was a leader of the African National Congress (ANC). Mandela promoted armed resistance after peaceful protests were met with violence by the apartheid regime.

- Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years (1962-1990) for his role in the resistance.

- **International Support:** The global community, including governments, organizations, and activists, imposed economic sanctions and boycotts on South Africa. International pressure played a significant role in ending apartheid.

Transition to Black Majority Rule:

- In the late 1980s and early 1990s, apartheid was increasingly unsustainable due to internal resistance and international pressure.
- F.W. de Klerk, South Africa's president, began negotiations with Mandela and other leaders, leading to the dismantling of apartheid.

End of Apartheid:

- **1990:** Nelson Mandela was released from prison.
- **1994:** South Africa held its first democratic elections, where Mandela became the first black president, marking the official end of apartheid.

(iii) Second Wave Feminist Movement in the USA (Early 1960s – Early 1980s)

Reasons for Its Origin:

- The **First Wave Feminist Movement** (late 19th to early 20th century) focused primarily on women's suffrage, and while it achieved some key victories, many issues remained unresolved.

- **Impact of the Presidential Commission: The Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, established by President Kennedy in 1961, highlighted gender-based discrimination in the workplace, education, and society.**
- **Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique" (1963): This book challenged the traditional roles of women as housewives and mothers, sparking widespread feminist thought. It argued that women were dissatisfied with their limited roles in society and urged them to seek fulfillment beyond domesticity.**
- **Civil Rights Movement Impact: The Civil Rights Movement's fight for equality influenced the feminist movement, as women sought similar rights and freedoms.**

Key Legislation and Measures:

- **Equal Pay Act of 1963: Mandated equal pay for equal work, addressing wage discrimination based on gender.**
- **Civil Rights Act of 1964: Title VII of this act prohibited employment discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, or national origin.**

Role of National Organization for Women (NOW):

- **NOW (Founded 1966): Founded by Betty Friedan and others, NOW became a major organization advocating for gender equality.**
    - **It campaigned for issues such as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), reproductive rights, and an end to gender discrimination in the workplace and education.**

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Campaign:

- **ERA (proposed in 1923, revived in the 1960s): A proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution to guarantee equal rights**

under the law, regardless of sex. While it gained significant support, it ultimately failed to be ratified by enough states.

- **The Second Wave Feminist Movement focused on social, political, and economic equality, and while it achieved major strides, issues such as reproductive rights, gender pay gaps, and sexual harassment remain ongoing struggles.**

Impact of These Movements:

- **The Civil Rights Movement led to landmark changes in American law and society, ensuring that African Americans gained political, economic, and social rights.**

- **The Anti-Apartheid Movement ended one of the most notorious systems of racial segregation in history, bringing justice and equality to South Africa.**

- **The Second Wave Feminist Movement significantly advanced women's rights in the U.S., advocating for workplace equality, reproductive rights, and gender equality in all sectors of society.**